

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 07177 011053Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5399

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ECIN, GH, XA
SUBJ: HEAD OF STATE AKUFFO CALLS FOR INCREASED REGIONAL
COOPERATION TOWARDS ECOWAS

1. SUMMARY: HEAD OF STATE CALLS ON WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES
TO INCREASE BILATERAL RELATIONS TO FACILITATE REGIONAL
COOPERATION AS GHANA/BENIN TALKS END. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAD OF STATE AKUFFO SAID IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT
AUGUST 25 THAT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED TALKS BETWEEN GHANA
AND BENIN IN ACCRA HAD RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF SATISFACTORY
AGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD FORGE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION
BETWEEN THESE TWO MEMBERS OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST
AFRICAN STATES.

3. BENIN WAS REPRESENTED BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND COOPERATION COMRADE MICHAEL ALLADAYE. GENERAL AKUFFO
RECEIVED ALLADAYE AUGUST 25 AND TERMED THE AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN GHANA AND BENIN A "SHINING EXAMPLE TO THE
COUNTRIES IN THE SUBREGION". HE CALLED ON WEST AFRICAN
COUNTRIES TO EXTEND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER
SO AS TO FACILITATE COOPERATION TOWARDS HASTENED
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DEVELOPMENT OF ECOWAS.

4. POLOFF DISCUSSED BENIN TALKS WITH GORDON CUDJOE,
MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR OAU AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS.
CUDJOE CONSIDERS AGREEMENTS WITH BENIN MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH
IN ONGOING GHANAIAAN EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE SUCH AGREEMENTS
WITH EIGHT WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES. BENIN IS FIRST.

OTHER IN PROCESS ARE IVORY COAST, TOGO, UPPER VOLTA, ZAIRE, GUINEA, MALI AND NIGER. IN ADDITION TO FREE VISA ENTRY, OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION INCLUDE LEGAL COOPERATION, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES, AND HEALTH ACTIVITIES. CUDJOE SAID GHANA CONSIDERS THIS MAJOR STEP TOWARDS INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ECOWAS.

5. COMMENT: THESE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS WELL AS AKUFFO STATEMENTS REPRESENT WHAT APPEAR TO BE AN INCREASED EFFORT ON PART OF GHANA TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL TIES ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY.

6. DEPT. PLEASE PASS ECOWAS COUNTRIES. HOLMES

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ECOWAS COUNTRIES.

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Message Attributes

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